

SUFFERING MIND



SUFFERING MIND INTERVIEW BY WILL BUTLER INTERVIEWEE KUCHAR

Can you please tell me about the formation of Suffering Mind? How did you guys meet? What was the focus of the band?

Suffering Mind was formed in 2007. Our previous band called People Hate had just split up and 3 of 5 members of the band decided to continue playing together. We asked Ulka (also former member of people hate) to join us for a sludge punk project influenced by Dystopia. After a few practices we decided to continue playing grindcore - and that was the birth of Suffering Mind.

Your band started touring pretty early after forming, how was your first short tour of Poland?

We were very excited because of forming

the new band and we had many practices - that's the reason why we made songs in a short time and were ready to play some gigs. First tour was really great, we played gigs in Poland and single gigs in Czech Republic and Germany. We met a lot of old and new friends, partying and drinking together. Really good times. People asked us for some releases or merch but we didn't have anything at the time. Our debut EP was released a few months later...

What is the scene like in Poland? What other bands are around, what kind of venues, what is the general attitude of people there towards DIY grindcore?

DIY grindcore/fastcore scene is not so strong in Poland in my opinion. Not many people are involved in this type of music so there's always lack of people to create some new bands here. Most known bands from Poland are probably Dead Infection and Squash Bowels which are not so strongly connected to hc/punk DIY scene. Fignation which was released in Deep Six years ago now is dead; some people may also know Self Hate which is still

playing, with a changed line-up. newer bands worth mention are The Bold and the Beautiful, Wojtyla (currently looking for drummer), and also a few bands still waiting for their debut releases like Diffenbachia. Many bands here have broken up too early and foreigners have no chance to hear of them I guess...

also the situation with venues is not so bright, got some clubs and squats as well but many times these places have financial problems or troubles with local authorities and they are finally closed. As I said, grindcore/fastcore is not so popular in Poland so there's only a few places to get good audience. But people involved in the scene here are really helpful and you can always count on them! For example, people running DIY labels here like Zaraza Production or Dropout Records - these guys are releasing Polish and international bands and organizing gigs as well.





Not just writing songs and lyrics but also recording, mixing, mastering our material, preparing layouts, and co-releasing a small amount of copies with our wist records. That gives us a lot of satisfaction; satisfaction of being involved into many phases of making our records.

Another sad thing to me is that almost everybody concentrates on bands and their bad situation, sayin' it's ok when they find a bigger label and get more money, better conditions... but what about their previous labels? In an era of downloading albums from the internet many labels are loosing a lot of money - some of them release less bands, some just quit releasing... it's a fact that before some bands get "big" enough to move to a major label - they must be supported by smaller DIY labels - without this help those bands would never reach their current status. Major labels just do nothing but wait for a promoted band and give them money. What a shit! That's why we've rejected money from a major label - I know that we are known only because of help of friendly labels! I'm answering this question because DIY labels decided to release an unknown band from Poland and help them reach more people! And that's why we will work again with the same people, with Olivier from Addiction to War who put our first EP, with Tukan from Zaraza Production, Will from Bullshit Propaganda and many more who helped us so much. Thank you guys!!! I don't care about money, I don't care about sleeping on the floor - DIY is something more! It's friendship and supporting each other! Not everything is for sale!

Tell me some of your thoughts about DIY culture?

DIY/Punk scene based on DIY rules with loads of friendly people who are helping you even when they don't know you personally is the best place in the world for me. The idea of DIY has always been an important part of my life and I strongly believe that culture of individual/collective acting is way better than just sitting and waitin' for miracles. Recently, there's been more and more voices criticising DIY scene and also more and more bands that are leaving DIY labels and moving to labels that are not connected to the scene. I read all those arguments about financial weakness of the scene, about bands that are still spending money on equipment, tour van repairs and many other things and they get not enough in return. They have to sleep on the floor etc. And I just wonder: what did you all expect? Hotel rooms, cash for everything?

For me, DIY scene is passion: passion for music (bands, labels), passion for communication among people (zines, gigs), helping each other and supporting other important activities related to the scene, like human/animal rights movements. This passion means that I'm ready to spend my money and time for this idea and I don't expect anything more but enthusiasm of other people. I see the scene as an alternative society where people are acting, not just complaining, using their own personal predispositions to do what they can do best. Some may play in a band, some may run a label

or a zine, some may organise gigs or demos, some may do a few things simultaneously. But all people on the scene should support each other... some may say: great utopia! Ok, but remember: a beautiful idea becomes utopia not because it's beautiful but because of a man - always the weakest part of everything... so all depends on each single person. If someone is here because of passion - he/she will do all the best to help others. But if someone is just a parasite on the scene - then he/she will only have expectations from other people.

In our band DIY means that we want to do as much as possible by ourselves.





Give me a little information about your records. Do you collectively have a favorite album? Do you think there is a big difference from your first EP to your upcoming material?

Here's the list of our releases so far:

- Destroy Mankind 7" - Addiction to War Recs.
- At War with Mankind CD - Zaraza Prods.
- split 7" with Lycanthropy - Bullshit Propaganda, Zaraza Prods.
- split 7" with Wojtyla - Dropout, Rotten Gorol, Dead Heroes, I Fell Good Recs.
- split 12" with Asshammer - Zaraza, Addiction to War, Bad People, Legion Prods.
- S/T 12" LP - 625 Thrash, Crucificados
- 3" EP - Zaraza Prods., Wist
- At War with Mankind 10" - Zaraza Prods., Crucificados, Dropout
- 2" EP - Zaraza Prods., Wist
- split 7" with Neon Hole - Bovine Records, Bullshit Propaganda, Coffee Grinder, Halo of Flies, Beer Demon, P del Muerte, Give Praise

Yes, I think that the difference between our first and the latest production is prominent. When we started our studio we didn't have so much equipment, mics and experience in recording songs. our first EP was a bit of an experiment. From recording to recording we learned new things that are helping us now to record songs better and get a satisfying effect.

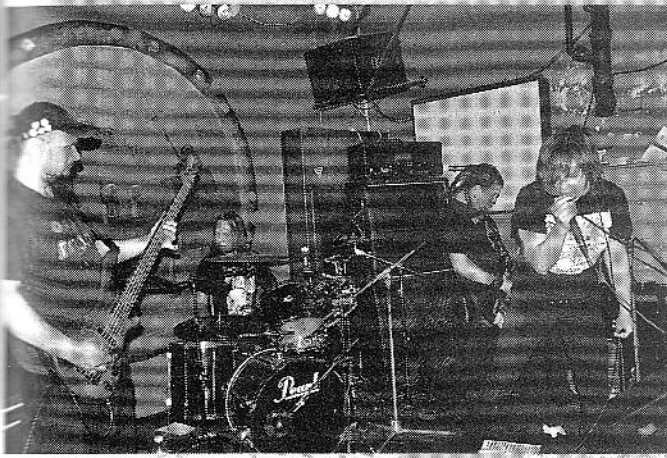
I guess that we all like the S/T LP for 625/Crucificados most. We were very excited when Max asked us to make an LP for 625 - it was my dream label. We had been preparing the songs for a long time and spent on them much more time than normally. We did our best and later Max sent the tracks for additional mastering - that helped this release too!

We also like our new songs that are not released yet - we have changed the way of recording a bit and we got new equipment - new songs sound way better.

I always loved that your band did a split with Lycanthropy, both bands being very strong grindcore bands with female singers, it always seemed like a perfect pairing.

Yes - I love that release - Lycanthropy is one of my favourite bands of all time and they are also our great friends so this release is very personal to me. And that's why we are planning a reissue of this release on 9" with additional tracks. That will be lots of fun, especially that we want to





over each other's songs!
Anyway, we are no longer a female
fronted band - Ulka left the band
this year and she's been replaced by
Miek - you should check him out on our
upcoming releases.

Do you feel like working
with 625 helped bring you
into the forefront in other
places like the US?

I'm sure that the LP for
625 was the first release
of our band that some
people heard - so sure,
that helped us a lot. I've
also read a number of
positive reviews on blogs
and forums so it looks like
people like this release,
which is very important to
me. But now we are working
on our second LP which will
be again released by 625
and on a few other releases
so we just don't think
too much about previous releases and
concentrate on the new ones! We want to
make our second LP for 625 better than
the first one

Does Suffering Mind have any outward
political views?

Every one of us has his own individual
views on the world. We don't support
any political option, especially that
here in Poland the situation resembles
the one from George Orwell's "1984".
We've got 2 major parties that don't
even fight each other with arguments or
plans for changing the reality. They're
just trying to scare people and create
the atmosphere of danger. They both
make their opponent the worse evil and
present themselves as the only savior.
So we've got faces of Big Brother and
Goldstein here, respectively. People
here vote neither for a program or
ideology - but against the party they
are scared of. That provides these 2

parties a sick hegemony!
So for us, things like
promoting vegetarianism
and antifascism are much
more useful.

How was your bigger
European tour in 2010
compared to the tour in
early stages of the band?

Hardly anything's changed
really. We still play in
the same places, still
meet the same people.
We've just reached more
countries and played at
Bloodshed Fest. So I guess
that invitations to festivals
is the only change that has come. And
I enjoy this way of touring; playing
at a fest with all these smaller gigs
before and after!



Are all of Suffering Mind's songs sung
in Polish?

We've got a few older songs in English
that appeared on our first EP and CD
but currently all our songs are written
and sung in Polish. None of us knows
English well enough to write songs in
this language (I'd like to apologize
here for my English being the reason
why I can't make this interview more
interesting) so we decided to write in
Polish and translate the lyrics later.

I have seen nothing but positive
feedback about your band, does that
make you folks proud? Has anyone voiced
any criticism about the band?

Well, grindcore is not a popularity
contest. We have our opinions, and if
there's something we don't like in
other people's behavior, we just say
it or/and write a song about it. And
we don't care (for example) about the

fact that if we criticize some band,
most of its fans will hate us. I don't
like ignorance, tolerating nazi scum on
our scene so I often talk about this
problems. We also refuse interviews
from zines that interview nazi bands
etc. all these things look shit in some
people's eyes and they don't like us.
People who know us personally, those
who have worked with us, know us better
and give us a positive feedback. and
this feedback, of course, works the
other way round.

What is in the future for the band?

Constantly working on new releases & a
tour after releasing the second LP for
625/Grucifikados...

We've got songs recorded for a few
releases, waitin' for them to happen:

- 4 way 7" with PLF, Phobia, Audio
Kollapse
- 4" EP
- split 5" with S.A.T.A.N.
- split 6" with Protestant
- split 7" with The Afternoon
Gentleman

Later on, second LP and
splits with N.I.B.I.R.U.,
PLF, Lycanthrophy (reissue &
bonusses)

And afterwards, we will see...

Anything I didn't cover that
you'd like to mention?

I'd like to thank you Will both
for interviewing us, as well
as for running the TLAL forum
- best place to me to get news
from labels and bands from all
over the globe! Great job man!
thanks to everybody who supports us and
the DIY scene!
Cheers!!!!

